

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By the above amendment, claims 10-13 have been added.

The Office Action dated March 24, 2005, has been received and carefully reviewed. In that Office Action, claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka. Claims 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan and Lahey and Tanaka. Reconsideration of these rejections and allowance of claims 1-13 is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claim 2 has been amended as suggested by the examiner. The basis for rejecting claim 4 was not clear, but claim 4 was carefully reviewed and has been amended to further define what a user is authorized to acquire. If this amendment does not address the examiner's rejection, it is respectfully requested that the examiner contact Mr. Scott Wakeman at the number provided below to discuss a suitable amendment or provide an example of language that the examiner would find acceptable so that a further amendment can be made if necessary.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka. By the above amendment, claim 1 has been modified to require a print system comprising a housing, an input unit on the housing, and a printer in the housing. Tanaka discloses a method of operating a network printer that does not show or suggest the features required by amended claim 1. Claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4, 10 and 11 are submitted to be allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 5 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka. Claim 5 has been amended to require a digital camera that is capable of short-distance communication with a print system. The art of record does not show or suggest a digital camera capable of short-distance communication with a print system as required by claim 5, and claim 5 is submitted to be allowable over the art of record for at least this reason.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka. By the above amendment, claim 7 has been amended to require a method of controlling operation of a print system that includes the steps of receiving a contact destination to be contacted at end of printing by short-distance communication. In one embodiment of the invention, for example, this short-distance communication is carried out using the Bluetooth communication standard. In Tanaka, a client 100 is connected to a network printer 110 by a network 109. However, in a short-distance communication, a transmitting device and a receiving device are corresponding 1 to 1. In contrast, in a network (LAN) communication, the transmitting device and a receiving device are not corresponding 1 to 1. Accordingly, Tanaka does not show or suggest a step of communicating by short-distance communication as required by claim 7, and claim 7 is submitted to be allowable over Tanaka for at least this reason.

Claim 8 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka. Claim 8 has been amended to recite a digital camera and is therefore submitted to distinguish over the art of record for at least the same reasons as claim 5.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan and Lahey and Tanaka. It is respectfully submitted that a proper motivation for combining these references has not been provided and that therefore a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented.

Morgan teaches that users each have a mailbox unit for receiving print jobs. Lahey teaches the use of a cover sheet to identify a user in a system without mailboxes. The Office Action indicates that it would have been obvious to add Lahey's coversheet to the printouts in Morgan's mailbox to further identify the owner. However, all prints in a given one of Morgan's mailboxes belong to the same owner. There is therefore no reason to provide an addition cover sheet telling that owner that the print jobs in his mailbox belong to him. Such coversheets only make sense in a system where multiple users must select from several print jobs. There is therefore no motivation for using cover sheets in Morgan's mailbox system.

In addition, the motivation for combining Morgan, Lahey and Tanaka is that the combination would provide “a notice function to pass along an email with job status information along with user information according to The print result and a password authorizing the user to access the print result.” This is merely a statement of the alleged result of the proposed combination. It does not suggest a reason for making the combination in the first place, and therefore does not disclose a motivation for combining the references. No motivation for combining Tanaka and the other references has been provided, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented.

Claim 6 is submitted to be allowable because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented. If a motivation for combining the references is provided in a later Office Action, differences between the cited references and the claimed invention will be addressed.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan and Lahey and Tanaka. For the reasons provided above in connection with claim 6, it is respectfully submitted that a proper motivation for combining Morgan, Lahey and Tanaka has not been identified and that therefore a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented. A proper rejection of claim 9 has not been presented, and claim 9 is therefore submitted to be allowable.

NEW CLAIMS

New claim 12 requires a print system that includes a keypad for inputting a contact destination to be contacted at the end of a printing, a printer for printing images on visible recording media, a determination unit for determining whether the printing by said printer has ended, and a transmitting unit responsive to a determination by said determination unit that the printing has ended for transmitting to a data processing unit via a communication channel data indicating that the printing has ended. These features are not shown or suggested by the art of record, and claim 12 is therefore submitted to be allowable.

New claim 13 requires a method of controlling operation of a print system that includes inputting by a keypad a contact destination to be contacted at the end of a printing of an image on a visible recording medium, printing an image on a visible recording medium, determining whether the printing has ended, in response to a determination that the printing has ended,

transmitting, via a communication channel, data indicating that the printing has ended to a data processing unit specified by the contact destination. This method is not shown or suggested by the art of record, and claim 13 is therefore submitted to be allowable.

CONCLUSION


Each issue raised in the Office Action dated March 24, 2005, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 and examination and allowance of claims 10-13 is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments